

AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
District of New Jersey

ORIGINAL FILED

MAR 12 2020

WILLIAM T WALSH CLERK

United States of America

v.

Jason Lasure

Case No.

20-mj-5540 (KMW)

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of August 24, 2019 and August 27, 2019 in the county of Camden in the
District of New Jersey, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Description of Offenses

18 U.S.C. Section 2119(1), 2

See Attachment A hereto

18 U.S.C. Section 924(c)(1)(A)(ii)

18 U.S.C. Section 924(c)(1)(A)(iii)

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See Attachment B hereto.

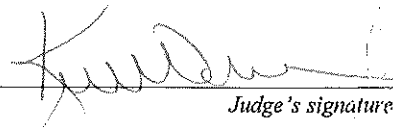
☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

Patrick B. Finegan, Special Agent, A.T.F.

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 03/12/2020

Judge's signature

City and state: Camden, New Jersey

Hon. Karen M. Williams, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

ATTACHMENT A

COUNT 1

(Carjacking)

On or about August 24, 2019, in Camden County, in the District of New Jersey, the defendant,

JASON LASURE,

did, with intent to cause serious bodily harm, at gunpoint, take a Dodge Charger motor vehicle that has been transported, shipped, and received in interstate commerce from the person or presence of another by force and violence and by intimidation.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2119(1) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

COUNT 2

(Brandishing a Firearm in Furtherance of a Crime of Violence)

On or about August 24, 2019, in Camden County, in the District of New Jersey, the defendant,

JASON LASURE,

during and in relation to a crime of violence for which he can be prosecuted in a court of the United States, that is a violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 2119(1), did knowingly brandish and possess a firearm in furtherance of such crime.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(ii).

COUNT 3

(Carjacking)

On or about August 27, 2019, in Camden County, in the District of New Jersey, the defendant,

JASON LASURE,

did, with intent to cause serious bodily harm, at gunpoint, take a Mercedes Benz motor vehicle that has been transported, shipped, and received in interstate commerce from the person or presence of another by force and violence and by intimidation.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2119(1).

COUNT 4

(Discharging a Firearm in Furtherance of a Crime of Violence)

On or about August 27, 2019, in Camden County, in the District of New Jersey, the defendant,


JASON LASURE,

during and in relation to a crime of violence for which he can be prosecuted in a court of the United States, that is a violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 2119(1), did knowingly discharge and possess a firearm in furtherance of such crime.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(iii).

CONTENTS APPROVED

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By: 
ALISA SHVER
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Date: March 12, 2020

ATTACHMENT B

I, Patrick B. Finegan, a Senior Special Agent with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (hereinafter "ATF"), being duly sworn, aver as follows:

1. I have been employed as a Special Agent with ATF since 2005, and I am currently assigned to the ATF Camden Field Office, Newark Division where I investigate, gather evidence and make arrests for violations of Title 21 and Title 18 of the United States Code and other federal criminal laws. I have participated in and received training as an ATF Special Agent in conducting investigations into violations of the federal firearms laws. Through the course of my career, I have participated in well over 100 firearm and firearm-trafficking investigations utilizing investigative techniques such as interviewing witnesses, conducting physical surveillance, electronic surveillance in the form of wire taps, the use of confidential informants and sources of information, and conducting and participating in searches based on search warrants.

2. For the reasons described in more detail below, there is probable cause to believe that Jason Lasure, a/k/a "Jason James," (hereinafter "Lasure"), along with an unnamed co-conspirator, but not as a defendant herein, utilized a firearm and robbed the occupant of a motor vehicle, and Lasure's accomplice stole the motor vehicle, in Camden County, New Jersey. Approximately three days later, Lasure on his own accord, utilized a firearm, shot two occupants and stole a second motor vehicle in Camden County, New Jersey. The aforementioned robberies occurred between on or about August 24, 2019 and on or about August 27, 2019.

3. Since this Affidavit is submitted for the sole purpose of establishing probable cause to support the issuance of a criminal complaint and arrest warrant, I have not included each fact known to me concerning this investigation. Rather, I have only included information necessary to establish probable cause for issuance of the complaint and warrant. Except as otherwise indicated, the actions,

conversations, statements of other identified in this Affidavit – even where they appear in quotations – are reported in substance and in part. Similarly, dates and times are approximations, and should be read as on or about, in or about, or at or about the date and time provided. The information provided below is based upon my own investigation, as well as upon information shared with me by other law enforcement personnel and police reports.

Carjacking of Victim-1 in Camden, New Jersey, on August 24, 2019

4. On or about August 24, 2019, at approximately 9:32 p.m., Camden County Police Department officers were on patrol in the Fairview section of Camden, New Jersey when they observed a male (identified herein as Victim-1), laying in the grass putting his/her pants back on. Victim-1 told law enforcement officers that he was in the area of North Constitution and Hornet Roads, in Camden, New Jersey, when two black males armed with handguns robbed him of both money and his vehicle, a grey 2013 Dodge Charger bearing New Jersey registration C98JLI (hereinafter the “Dodge”).

5. Victim-1 told law enforcement officers that he obtained Lasure’s telephone number from a mutual acquaintance in order to purchase a firearm. Victim-1 initially spoke to Lasure, then exchanged numerous text messages to set up the transaction. Lasure told Victim-1 to travel to the intersection of North Constitution Road and Hornet Road in Camden, New Jersey. Once there, Victim-1 saw two black males approach and enter his/her vehicle. One male got into the front passenger seat and the second male sat in the rear passenger seat, who racked the slide of a firearm. The male in the front seat was later identified as Lasure. Lasure told Victim-1 that the rear passenger was Lasure’s protection. Lasure removed a handgun from a fanny pack he was wearing, pointed the handgun at Victim-1 and asked, “Where’s it at?” Victim-1 told Lasure that his money was in his pockets, and Lasure rifled through his pockets. As Lasure did that, the second male put his gun to Victim-1’s cheek stating, “don’t look or I’m going to shoot you.” After Lasure took Victim-1’s money, Lasure got out and searched the

trunk. Lasure told the second male to “come on,” at which point the second male struck Victim-1 in the face and told him/her to get out of the vehicle and lay down in the grass across the street. The second male exited the vehicle and searched Victim-1’s pockets again. The second male threatened to shoot Victim-1 and told him/her to remove his/her pants. After Victim-1 removed his/her pants, the second male entered the driver’s side of the Dodge and drove away.

6. Inside the Dodge was Victim-1’s cellular telephone and approximately \$700. Victim-1 recalled the first six digits of Lasure’s phone number (267-455). Victim-1 confirmed that the voice that he/she spoke to in arranging the firearms transaction was the same person who he/she later identified as Lasure.

7. On August 26, 2019, Camden County police officers recovered the Dodge on Yorkship Road, in Camden, New Jersey

8. During the course of this investigation, law enforcement agents searched various law enforcement databases and learned that Lasure had previously provided cellular telephone number (267) 455-9766 to law enforcement officers near the time of this incident. Lasure had also provided an address at 2776 North Constitution Road, in Camden, New Jersey.

9. Law enforcement agents reviewed surveillance footage from the area of the carjacking, which showed the Dodge arrive in the area. Surveillance footage showed two males, one identified as Lasure and wearing a fanny pack, approach and enter the Dodge. Later, surveillance footage showed Lasure exit the vehicle and search the trunk. Moments later, Lasure left the area as Victim-1 exited the Dodge, immediately followed by the second male. Surveillance video showed the second male follow Victim-1 out of view of the camera. Soon after, the second male returned to the Dodge and drove it away. Victim-1 appeared into view of the surveillance video, putting his/her pants back on.

Carjacking of “Victim-2” and “Victim-3” in Camden, New Jersey on August 27, 2019

10. On or about August 27, 2019 at approximately 5:01 p.m., Camden County Police officers

were approached by a gunshot victim at the Camden County Police Southern District House, 2881 Mount Ephraim Avenue, in Camden, New Jersey. The male victim, (identified herein as "Victim-2") stated he was shot in the hands and the shooter had taken his vehicle. While police officers were speaking with Victim-2, a second male approached them (identified herein as "Victim-3") stating he had been shot in the legs.

11. Victim-2 told law enforcement officers that he met a male, who he later identified as Lasure, in Philadelphia approximately one week earlier and exchanged phone numbers. Victim-2 provided Lasure's cell phone number, (267) 455-9766. Victim-2 and Lasure arranged to meet at 2880 Hull Road, Camden, New Jersey, an address provided by Lasure, to purchase narcotics. Victim-2 brought a friend, Victim-3 to the meeting, arriving in a black Mercedes-Benz ML 320, with Pennsylvania Registration KZZ6201 (hereinafter the "Mercedes"). Victim-2 told law enforcement agents that he could not find the property, called Lasure, and met him at a nearby parking lot. Lasure entered the rear driver's side of the vehicle and directed them to park on Hull Road, nearby. Victim-2 said that after several minutes of talking, Lasure left momentarily, claiming to get his girlfriend, but returned a few moments later alone. After telling Victim-2 and Victim-3 again that he needed to get his girlfriend, Victim-2 and Victim-3 became nervous and started to drive away from the area. Victim-2 told law enforcement agents that Lasure became angry and removed a black handgun from his waistband. Lasure reached over the driver's seat and pointed the gun at Victim-2. Victim-2 put his hands up to push away the gun, then heard a loud bang and realized he was shot in the hand. Victim-2 slowed down the vehicle and exited the car, leaving Victim-3 inside. Victim-2 told law enforcement officers that soon after exiting, he heard two more gunshots from inside the vehicle. Shortly after that, Victim-3, who was shot in the legs while inside the vehicle, exited the vehicle. Immediately after the gunshots, Victim-2 saw Lasure as he jumped from the rear into the driver's seat and drove away in the

Mercedes. Victim-3 was interviewed by law enforcement officers and added that when Lasure jumped into the driver's seat, he said, "get out or I'm going to kill you."

12. Law enforcement officers located the Mercedes approximately one mile away from the area of the shooting, in Camden, New Jersey. Recovered from inside was Victim-2's cellular telephone, which contained Lasure's cell phone number, (267) 455-9766. Also recovered from inside the vehicle was evidence of a shooting including blood, multiple bullet holes, and a bullet lodged in the rear driver's side door. Law enforcement officers went to the area of the shooting and observed drops of blood on Olympia Road going towards the Camden County Police Department Southern District House.

13. Law enforcement officers reviewed surveillance footage of the area showing Lasure walking from the direction of his home towards the area of 2880 Hull Road, where the shooting took place. Surveillance footage from the area where the Mercedes was found showed the Mercedes arrive, and a person in the driver's seat moving around furtively inside the vehicle. Eventually, a sole male occupant, thin build, exited the vehicle and walked out of view.

14. On September 10, 2019, law enforcement officers located and arrested Lasure at his address, in Camden, New Jersey. Lasure was charged with the robbery, waived his Miranda rights, and gave a statement. Lasure confirmed that he met Victim-2 and Victim-3, but claimed that Victim-2 had produced a gun, but Lasure wrestled it away and shot first. Also recovered from Lasure was a rose-colored iPhone, bearing IMEI identification number 359169074452863 (hereinafter "Lasure's phone").

15. Law enforcement officers applied for a search warrant for Lasure's phone, which was granted by the Honorable Judge Gwendolyn Blue, J.S.C.¹ Law enforcement officers also reviewed Victim-2's cellular telephone. From Victim-2's cellular telephone law enforcement officers recovered a conversation between him and Lasure where, in summary, Lasure offered to sell narcotics in exchange

¹ Search warrant No. CAM-57ACDW-19

for money. Lasure directed Victim-2 to 2880 Hull Road in Camden, New Jersey.

16. Law enforcement officers reviewed Lasure's telephone, and recovered two images of Lasure with a white fanny pack worn across his shoulder, similar to what he was observed wearing during the August 24, 2019 carjacking. Location data on Lasure's phone showed that on August 24, 2019, from approximately 9:35 p.m. to 10:05 p.m., Lasure's phone was in the area of North Constitution Road in Camden New Jersey, in close proximity (within approximately 200 feet) to the location of the August 24, 2019 carjacking.

17. Law enforcement officers also recovered several text messages with a male, identified herein as co-conspirator-1, and Lasure's phone regarding the August 24, 2019 carjacking. Specifically, on that date at 9:45 p. m., minutes after the carjacking, Lasure's phone received a text from co-conspirator-1 stating, "Bro where tf u at yo." Lasure's phone replied, " I knew I should of did shit wit u u fck retarded y tf fck wud u take this man car u got shit hit as hell u fckn stupid can't move"

18. Lasure sent co-conspirator-1 a text at 10:10 p.m. stating, "Listen delete all my messages n my number u don't know me cuz u moving real stupid don't go the crib while block sworn wit cops u stupid." Three days later, on August 27, 2019 Lasure received a SMS message from co-conspirator-1. within 20-25 minutes of the second carjacking stating, "U a wild bool yo real talk."

19. Location data on Lasure's phone on August 27, 2019, from approximately 4:43 p.m. to 4:58 p.m., showed that Lasure's phone was in the area of the intersection of Hull Road, Olympia Road, and Mt. Ephraim Avenue, in close proximity of the shooting. In a series of text exchanges, Victim-2 texted that he was expecting to arrive at the meet location at 4:20 p.m., to which Lasure's phone replied "ok." Lasure's phone also recorded a log of incoming and outgoing calls with Victim-2, with the final calls to Lasure's phone occurring at 4:26 p.m. and 4:36 p.m..

20. At all relevant times, the gray 2013 Dodge Charger was not manufactured in New Jersey,

and therefore had to travel in interstate commerce to be in New Jersey on or about August 24, 2019.

21. At all relevant times, the black 2018 Mercedes Benz ML 320, was not manufactured in New Jersey, and therefore had to travel in interstate commerce to be in New Jersey on or about August 27, 2019.

CONCLUSION

22. Based upon the foregoing observations, including my familiarity with this investigation more generally, I have probable cause to believe that Lasure and another committed two carjackings at gunpoint, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2119, Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(ii), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2. I have probable cause to believe that during the course of one carjacking Lasure discharged a firearm, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951 and Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(iii).

23. To ensure the safety of the arresting officers and to avoid premature disclosure of the investigation, it is requested that the court seal this Affidavit, the Application, the arrest warrant, and all the accompanying paperwork